Leicester, Maſstts May 23/63.

Dear Friend Webb;

I am somewhat late in acknowledging receipt of yrs. of April 25th, having enclosed Alfd's of same date with his statement of certain receipts and a Bank of Ireland Draft on Bank of England for £7. 10. 5. It came just as I was making the last preparations for our New York Annual Meeting, which, with the going thither, attendance on meeting, work growing therefrom, returning, and a somewhat painful job of dentistry immediately following, so much occupied me, (& so exhausted me besides, compelling me to 3 or 4 days' almost entire quiet & *far niente*,) that I have postponed till now this note. Thank you for your friendly word, and Alfred for his renewed & successful labors in our behalf. I have made a good sale of the bill, & have discharged all dues therewith connected; paying to Liberator *$7.25* – Standard $ *39.84* – & sending to Mrs. Phebe H. M. Stickney of Battle Creek, Michigan, for "Sojourner Truth" *$12.68* (with a little addition from my own family besides.) That discharges that trust. I am happy to tell you that the *Standard's* life for another year is rendered morally certain; we have now sufficient funds for 7 or 8 months at least reserved & funded for that purpose, & something over for other publications & lecturing. – Our New York meeting was an excellent one, – unexceptionably good throughout, & encouraging. It was preceded (Mond. Eveg. 11th) by an Address from Wendell Phillips before ~~to~~ the "Sixteenth Ward Republican Association of the City of New York" – quite a novelty in our political affairs; 5000 people (at a 25 cents admission) heard it, and applauded it, in nearly every sentence. I think it will be in this week's *Standard*. The next day our two Public Meetings were held, – in Dr. Cheever's church and the Cooper Institute, & were eminently strong & well sustained. Last week's Standard had a partial report, & a series of resolutions; this week's will contain other resolutions, & a further report. –

I have been very sorry for the course taken by our Minister Mr. Adams in giving the safe conduct for the London vessel to Matamoras; not that I can see that he did anything strictly wrong, but he seems to have stepped beyond his own record and jurisdiction entirely in doing it, and in the present critical condition of affairs between your country & ours, & us & France, should in an especial manner have been avoided. Besides, it looks as if the

British Govt. lacked the will or the power to protect ~~her~~ its own commerce, and that nobody here believes; & it was surely very unwise to afford any ill-disposed person the pretext for asserting that Mr. Adams, or his government, designed to intimate anything of the kind. I see that Mr. A. has given some explanation - what, I know not; but cannot doubt it will be an honorable & satisfactory one; for it is a comparatively trifling matter, to us of no consequence whatever, and should not be allowed to grow into any importance. - France has no cause or right to bluster about it. Having been allowed (I regret to say) to purchase in this country & ship from New York many necessary military appliances & aids for her invasion & war upon Mexico, she has no great right to complain if our diplomatic agents should give some help to the other side.

— War is a bad, wretched business any way — and never to be chosen, if it can be honestly, decently, honorably, righteously avoided. **We** think we could not have avoided this war without disgrace of the most lasting & irretrievable description. The issue of eternal slavery, our own included, was offered to us. What ought we to have done? What could we do but join the issue? You speak of me as "so intensely national", — and thereby give an added proof that (as I see myself) you do not understand me aright, or see our national struggle in its true light. It is on far higher grounds than "nationality", or any of the sort that I uphold my country now, & that I condemn the "pro-slavery England" which R. Purvis spoke of last week at the New York Meeting. I look, speak, from the old Antislavery platform, & from the highest moral position I can climb to. I stand for the Government now, for its antislavery measures & those only, & condemn all others, am interested in its success, only as Freedom succeeds & Slavery loses, — as the prospects of a just righteous Union prosper, & those of essential despotism decline. — Our Govt. will not, probably, "send Lyons away", but I ~~the~~ almost wish they would, is too palpably partizan, & I wish he might be recalled. — I will endeavour to send you the Liberator & Photographs

Very sincerely & truly Yours Saml. May Jr. —

MS. B.1.6 v.9 p.93